HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE DAILY ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF THE CADETS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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Abstract

The mission of Vasil Levski National Military University is to develop the students in moral, mental and physical aspects, to incorporate them to the ideals of patriotism, duty and honor, to form them as personalities and leaders with developed leader competences, capable of developing and implementing the scientific knowledge, to direct public and special structures in peacetime and during crises and to participate in national or multinational projects for keeping of security, peacekeeping and developing of the society.

Aim of the work: the aim of the research is to generalize the historical experience for the evaluation of the energy requirement of the military personnel from different national armies and to trace back in a historical aspect the tendencies of the daily energy requirement of the Cadets in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Methods: Study of literature sources of published data about the energy requirements of the military personnel from different armies and of the Cadets in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Conclusion: It's advisable to conclude researches energy requirements, connected with the military training and to implement the results of these researches as a base for the revision of the energy and nutrient values of the food rations, used in the nutrition of the students at Vasil Levski National Military University.

Keywords: daily energy requirements, norms, cadets, rational nutrition.

1. INTRODUCTION

The proper nutrition is one of the main factors for the good physical shape and the mental state of the Cadets, of the post-graduate students and of the soldiers, studying at "Vasil Levski" National Military University. The basic principle of the rational nutrition is that food must supply the needed quantity of energy, able to cover the quantity of the required energy for physical and mental activity. The consumed by the body energy can be covered only through intake of proteins, fats and carbohydrates from the food. The study of the daily energy requirement is ground for determination of the nutrient and energy values of the food rations of person, who are homogeneous according to their anthropometric data and are performing single activities and are living in similar conditions.

2. HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF THE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL

The history of determination of the nutrient requirements and in particular of the energy requirements of the soldiers dates back to the 19th century. The feeding of the soldiers had usually been an object of interest for the authorities of medical insurance within the military units, because it affects directly the health of the soldiers and the effectiveness of their activities. In 1863 the responsibility for the feeding of the American Army was granted with a Law for Protection of Health during the Military Service and until the present moment, this law is still in force, despite of the numerous changes. According to these regulations the staff of the Medical Corps is responsible also for the nutrition of the soldiers (Nichev, 2017a, pp. 399-404; Terziev, Nichev, 2017b, pp. 627-630; Terziev, Nichev, 2017c, pp. 846-850; Terziev, Nichev, 2017d, pp. 631-635; Terziev, Nichev, 2017e, pp. 667-671; Bertrandt, Kłos, Bertrandt, 2012a, pp. 57 - 60; Georgiev, 1953a, p. 9; Individual feeding ration, 2003a; Irinkov, Kolev, pp. 15-27; Klicka, Sherman, King, Friedl,. Askew; 1993a; Operational rations, 2012c; Schnakenberg 1995a, pp. 91-107; Sergey, 2011a; Stavrev, Sheytanov, Donev, 1969a, p. 189; Tharion et al. 2005a, 47-65).

About 1870 in Europe had been performed the first studies for measuring of the physiological load of the soldiers, wearing personal equipment with different weight and trainings had been conducted under different temperature ranges of the environment. Those and also the next researches, conducted in Europe and in the United States, had resulted in determination of the energy requirements of the military personnel, performing various activities, such as: drills, engineering equipment, movement of load etc. The quoted above researches demonstrate, that soldiers can be loaded with activities, needing energy in the range of 5000-6000 kcal/daily, depending on the weight of the equipment and the outdoor temperature. The determination of the energy and alimentary needs of the soldiers at that time was based mainly on the average consumption of food. The food scheme, offered at the end of the First World War by the General Secretary of the Medical Corpse of the American Army, had been grounded on the results of the studies of the quantities of standardized food, consumed by the soldiers in 400 canteens during the period 1917-1918.

As noted in a historical reference about the development of the military norms of nutrition during the World War II, a nutrition standard is needed for the planning of a particular ration. The standard had to be based on requirements, suitable for the optimal feeding, not on minimal requirements. Besides that the standards for nutrient values ought to be grounded on the combined evaluations of the Feeding Authorities and not to be elaborated for single activities.

The results of the researches permit to determine the average energy value of the consumed food at a level of 3633 kcal, where the actual values are within the range from 3000 up to 4000 kcal. The next examination of the demand of energy by soldiers, based on calculations of the energetic values of food rations, was carried out in the United States in 1941. The research comprised totally several hundred units from the different sort and types of armies, military training centers etc. The average daily energy value of the consumed by soldiers food, amounted 3 694, varying from 3 132 up to 4 135 kcal. The highest energy value had been measured for the rations, distributed during the autumn season (September-November - 3 960 kcal), while the lowest energy value had been measured by the rations, distributed during the spring season (March-May - 3 570 kcal).

The results don't differ significantly from those, obtained in 1917-1918. The carried out research in 1943 at 99 military canteens of the land troops of the American Army, comprising 130 000 food rations had shown, that the average energy value of the daily ration amounts 3 468 kcal, varying from 2 774 up to 4 644 kcal. In the spring of 1945 a study for determination of the energy value of the daily food ration in the American Army had been conducted. The average energy value of the food rations, granted to the soldiers, was 3744 kcal, varying from 3471 up to 4078 kcal. The average energy value, fixed in the research, was very close to the values, obtained for the food rations from the researches, which had been carried out during the First World War (3 633 kcal) and the World War II (3 694 kcal).

During the World War II the energy value of the food rations in the British Army was higher than the value of the American food rations and amounted 5 127 kcal in January 1942. Because of the excessively high weight of the rations, the energy value was reduced to 4562 kcal in May 1942.

The results of the subsequent researches serve as a base for the revision of the alimentary standards of the American society; the changes in the recommendations for nutrition of the soldiers follow these changes.

After the World War II the term "minimal intake of nutrient substances" has been used for the basic alimentary standards in nutrition under stationary and field condition in the American army since 1947. The

calorific standard of 3600 kcal/daily for moderate climate has been increased up to 4400 kcal for extremely cold areas. This regulation had been revised again in 1949 in order to add also standards of the female gender with corrections for active or sedentary way of activity. The first regulation concerning feeding standards, representing the tree types of armed forces, had been elaborated and adopted in 1968. In the feeding standards it's recommended, that the total intake of calories from sources of fats is 40% or less and that the menus mustn't contain more than 45% calories from sources of fats. The regulation had been changed again in 1969, where the basic changes affect the intake of calcium, which had been reduced to 800 mg and for the reduction of the risk of heart diseases it was recommended to reduce the total contents of fats in the menus to 42% of the calories. The regulation had been revised once again in 1970 with the addition, that fats mustn't exceed 40% of the calories of the planned menus.

In 1985 the regulation was revised again and the average values for men and women are respectively 3200 and 2400 and depending on the different conditions may vary within the ranges 2800 – 3600 kcal/daily for men and 2000-2800 for women. The alimentary standards are defined as "daily basic levels of intake of nutritious substances", which are considered nowadays to be sufficient to cover the alimentary needs of practically all American servicemen, from 17 to 50 years old.

The research among the leading military forces in the world shows, that the energy contents of the feeding norms, adopted by STANAG 2937 for the Armies of the states-members of NATO, is 3600 kcal/daily. The calorific value of the food in the American Army for the most popular individual ration MRE™ amounts 3900 kcal/daily. The values of the energy requirements of the soldiers from the Polish army during a typical training day depend on the sort and the character of the unit and lie within the range 3339.5 - 4651.6 kcal/daily, while the daily ration in Russia amounts 3595 kcal/daily, in Great Britain the daily ration is 4050 kcal/daily, in Germany – 3950 kcal/Daily, in France – 3875 kcal/daily.

Research of the daily energy requirement of the Cadets in the Republic of Bulgaria

In Bulgaria researches of the energy requirements of the soldiers in active service had been carried out already before the First World War and are connected mainly with the waged by the new country Balkan Wars. In 1907 the book "Soldiers' comrade" was published, where it was noted: "To one soldier it's due daily a sum, enough to buy one loaf of bread and some other products, costing 50 stotinki". The energy and the alimentary value of the actually used rations were insufficient, what resulted in starvation among the soldiers.

The overall scientific progress in the 30-s of the XX century created the conditions to conduct physiological and social studies of the nutrition habits of the population and of the Army. They had a restricted size and were held mainly on the demand of and with the support of the progressive medical public in Bulgaria. During that period mainly under German influence, and in some cases under the influence of Western Europe several scientific hygiene norms of the military nutrition, water supply and accommodation had been fixed.

The first written data for implementation of the scientifically grounded nutrition norms and study of the energy requirement in the Bulgarian Army can be found in the school aid "Military nutrition". In result of implementation of the experience of the Central Nutrition Institute of the Soviet Union, of the geographic situation and of the national psychology in Bulgaria were approved the following nutrition norms:

Soldier ration - 3303 kcal;

Cadet ration - 3667 kcal;

Aviator ration - 4656 kcal and

Hospital ration - 3389 kcal.

The observing of the given calorific value lies at the base for the elaboration of the weekly nutrition ration of the military personnel. In the school aid it's specified: "If a reduction of the calorific value of the ration is found out, a substitution of the low-calorific products with products with higher calorific value and to cover the calorific value norms".

According to the conducted researches in the Bulgarian Army in the 50-s of the XX century, the energy requirement of the soldier from the rifle-corps is, as follows:

Table 1: Energy requirement of the soldiers from the rifle-corps during the 50-s of the XX century

Sort of activity	Energy requirement for 1 hour kcal/h	Duration h	Calorific demand kcal
Exercises for loading and unloading of weapon outdoors	476	0.25	119
Drills without weapon	242	2	484
Drills with weapon	375	2	750
Theoretical classes	112	4	450
Exercises for loading and unloading of weapon indoors	468	1	468
Self-training and self-service	105	2	210
Feeding	85	2	170
Rest after feeding	83	1.75	145
Rest	74	1	74
Sleep	70	8	560
	Altogether	24	3430

The energy loss may vary in one or another direction, depending on the performed duties and tasks, yet it's specified, that the energy requirement of the soldiers in winter amounts 3550 kcal/daily.

In 1957 the first Department of Military Epidemiology and Hygiene in the history of the Republic of Bulgaria was established, which became a significant scientific and research Centre within the structure of the Institute for Military Medicine since 1960. The questions of the influence of the environment and the military equipment on the organism were examined, also the affect of the Weapons of Mass Destruction on the soldiers, the combating of fatigue and the connected with them rational and preventive nutrition. In result of these researches it is concluded, that the energy requirement of the servicemen from the Bulgarian Army shows a tendency to reduction. In result of the conducted research during the period 1963-1965 in the three types of armed forces and in a University, it's found out, that the energy requirement in the Bulgarian Army is within the limits of 3500-4000 kcal/daily. The following data support the above stated:

Rifle-corps:

- at the beginning of winter 3450 kcal/daily;
- in the months June and July 3200-3800 kcal/daily:
- during long-lasting field trainings up to 4150 kcal/daily, in particular cases up to 5730 kcal/daily.

Armored troops:

- during normal learning-combatant activity from 3000 up to 3900 kcal/daily, averagely 3610 kcal/daily;
- in case of prolonged driving from 3900 up to 4200 kcal/daily.

Naval forces:

- In torpedo boats in ports - from 3500 up to 4000 kcal/daily;

- During sailing on ships - up to 5000 kcal/daily.

Air forces:

- for aviators from the propeller aviation 3750 kcal/daily;
- for aviators from the jet aviation 3500 kcal/daily;
- for technicians kcal/daily.

These researches have an evaluative character and the obtained results serve as a basis for revision of the food rations of the soldiers. The results of the research are expressed in orders and regulations of the Ministry, regulating the nutrition of the personnel of the Bulgarian Army, of the Ministry of Defense and the subordinated to the Ministry of Defense structures and represent the only documents of its' kind to present date. The examined literature permits to generalize the caloricity of the daily intake of nutrient products by the Cadets during the years, and this caloricity is illustrated at Diagram 1.

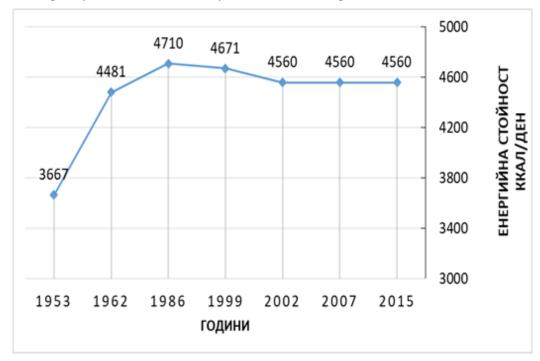


Diagram 1: Caloricity of the daily intake of nutrient products by the Cadets

During the years, the data from the tables of the regulating documents had first an obligatory, and later a recommendation character, but the contents of the major nutrient products for the assuring of a free feeding allows the easy calculation of the daily intake of energy by the cadets.

The values of the energy and of the substantial regulations for a balanced nutrition for a single day of nutrition of the military personnel depend on the type and the character of the unit, and are situated in the range 3500 - 6600 kcal/daily (Table 2).

Table 2: Energy and substantial standards of a balanced nutrition for one feeding day

Sort of activity	Energy requirements	
Soft of activity	kcal	kJ
During learning-combatant activity	3500 – 3900	14.64 – 16.32
During field trainings	4200 – 4600	17.57 – 19.25

Sort of activity	Energy requirements	
Soft of activity	kcal	kJ
Under camp conditions: - 1 May until 30 September - 1 October until 30 April	3000 - 3300 4200 - 4600	12.55 – 13.81 17.57 – 19.25
During walking marches at the area: – 1 May until 30 September – 1 October until 30 April	6000 – 6600 4200 – 4620	25.10 – 27.61 17.57 – 19.33
For pilots during flight days	3500 – 3600	14.64 – 15.06

In the examined literature there are no data about the levels of energy requirement of the Cadets from the Military Universities. Irinkov and Kolev examine the total energy value of the individual food package and suggest a classification of values of physical loading of military personnel during a 24-hours period according to the character of the performed activities and the connected with them level of physical activity. According to them the value of physical loading reflects the correlation between the consumed energy for the implementation of specific activities and the basic norm of metabolism of the human organism. The results of their study are listed in Table 3.

Table 1: Values of the physical loading for the servicemen during the 24-hours period (adapted according to Irinkov and Kolev)

Character of activities of the military personnel	Physical activity level	Value of the physical loading during the 24-hours period	Energy value of the individual food package, kcal
Work in the headquarters	Insignificant	1,69	5127
Study-combatant activity at the territory of the country	Moderate	1,70–1,99	5128 - 6036
Participation in operations, different from war and reserve for battle operations	High	2,00	6037
Participation in battle operations as part of the major forces	Very high	2,40	7281
Servicemen from the specialized forces	Extreme	over 2,40	over 7281

The researches of the leading scientists in the sphere of military nutrition science are oriented mainly towards the energy requirement of the soldiers during combat activities, of the soldiers from the specialized forces, during field and tactical trainings. The analysis of the accessible reveals data about the energy requirement during the training of the Cadets at the West Point Military Academy in the United States and at the Polish Military Universities. The summarized data of the energy requirement at the mentioned above Universities and the secured through the food energy requirement of the Cadets at Vasil Levski NMU is shown in Table 4.

Table 2: Summarized data of the energy requirement in the Military Universities

Military University	Average daily energy requirement [kcal]	Average daily energy requirement [MJ]
U. S. West Point Military Academy, men	3200	13,4
U. S. West Point Military Academy, women	2400	10,0
Students at the Polish Military Academy	3535,0	14,51
Students at the Polish Military-Medical Academy	3339,5	13,99
Students at the Polish Military Technical Academy	3737,3	15,66
Students at Vasil Levski National Military University	4560,00	19,09

The submitted data illustrate the big difference between the summarized daily energy requirements of the Cadets from Vasil Levski NMU and the examined Military Universities (Terziev, Nichev, 2017f, p.164; Terziev, Nichev, 2017g, pp.915-919; Terziev, Nichev, Bogdanov, 2017h, pp. 469-475; Terziev, Nichev, Bogdanov, 2017i, pp.671-677; Nichev, 2017j, str. 121-128; Nichev, 2017k, pp. 129-135; Kanev, Terziev, 2017l, pp.413-423; Kanev, Terziev. 2017m, pp. 595-606; Sotirov, Terziev, 2015a, str. 197-207; Sotirov, Terziev, 2015b, p.25; Terziev, 2017n, pp. 893-908; Terziev, 2016a, s.84-90; Terziev. 2017o, p.252; Terziev, 2017p, pp.22-28; Terziev, Vezieva, Arabska, 2016b, str.106-121; Terziev, Manolov, 2016c, pp.15-20; Terziev, Minev, Sotirov, Ivanov, 2016d; Terziev. Kanev, 2017q, pp.733-742; Terziev, Madanski, 2017v, pp.917-937; Terziev, Madanski, 2017r, pp.28-36; Terziev, Madanski, 2017s, pp.610-625; Terziev, Madanski, Kanev, 2017t, pp.575-594; Terziev, Madanski, Kanev, 2017u, pp.396-415; Terziev, Madanski, Kanev, 2017v, pp.1331-1346; Terziev, Madanski, Kanev, 2017w, pp.1355-1372; Terziev, Madanski, Kanev, 2017x, pp.1380-1393; Terziev, Nichev, 2016e, pp.101-106; Terziev, Nichev, 2017y, pp.661-666; Banabakova, Georgiev, 2018a, pp. 46-51; Banabakova, Georgiev, 2018b, pp. 462-467; Terziev, Manolov, 2016f, pp.307-318; Terziev, Manolov, 2016g, pp.15-29; Terziev, Manolov, 2016h, s.96-106; Terziev, Manolov, 2016i, pp.570-575; Terziev, Manolov, 2016j, pp.9-13).

3. CONCLUSION

At the present moment the service at the Bulgarian Armed forces is a professional activity, that's why the results of the researches of the energy requirements during the study at Vasil Levski NMU, which were used as a basis for determination of the energy values of the food rations and of the nutrition in general, have lost a part of their importance. It's reasonable to conduct researches of the energy expenditures, connected with the military training and to use the results of these researches as a base for determination and/ or revision of the energy and nutritional values of the food rations, used for the nutrition of the Cadets, of the Postgraduate Students and of the soldiers in Vasil Levski National Military University.

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